

## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(21)Application number : 07-288941 (71)Applicant : FUJI XEROX CO LTD

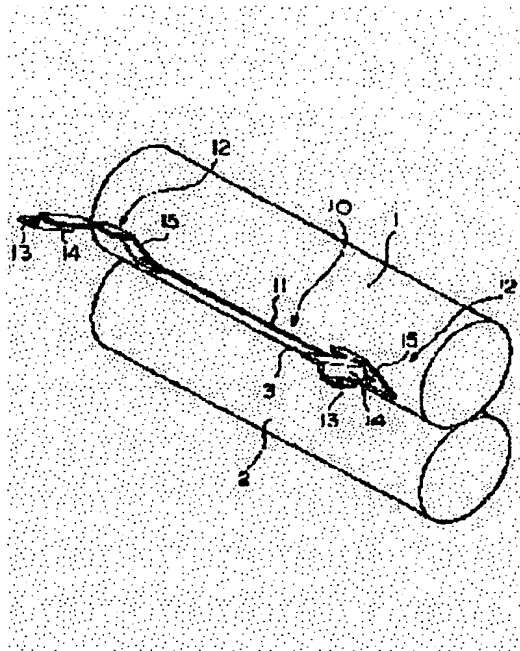
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## (54) IMAGE FIXING DEVICE

## (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To position a peeling member, which peels a sheet off a heat roller, close to the heat roller without being affected by the heat of the roller.

SOLUTION: A linear material 11 made of metal is used as a member for peeling the sheet S. This linear material 11 is positioned close to the heat roller 1, is supported by support members 12 at both its end, is also applied tension, and is held so that a gap between the heat roller 1 and itself is kept constant without being affected by the heat of the heat roller 1.



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## IMAGE FIXING DEVICE

## [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Picture fixing equipment characterized by providing the following Heating roller The pressurization roller which contacts this heating roller by the proper pressure, and forms a nip between heating rollers The sheet conveyance way which passes the sheet with which the non-established toner adhered to the aforementioned nip It is the supporter material which the aforementioned exfoliation member supports the both ends of the wire rod which has the flexibility which sets the aforementioned heating roller and a minute crevice and is prolonged in parallel, and this wire rod by having with the sheet exfoliation member allotted to the downstream of the aforementioned nip in this sheet conveyance way by approaching the aforementioned heating roller, and gives a proper tension to a wire rod.

[Claim 2] Picture fixing equipment according to claim 1 characterized by setting the crevice between the aforementioned wire rod and the aforementioned heating roller as 0.6mm or less.

[Claim 3] Picture fixing equipment given in either of the claims 1 and 2 characterized by being the position of 90 degrees or less a center [ the axial center of a heating roller ] at the down-stream sense of the aforementioned sheet conveyance way from the nip center line which connects the axial center of the aforementioned heating roller and the aforementioned pressurization roller when the arrangement position of the aforementioned wire rod sees from the side which it is on the extension wire of this wire rod.

[Claim 4] The aforementioned supporter material is picture fixing equipment given in either of the claims 1, 2, and 3 characterized by being in contact with this heating roller while being fixed to the heating roller side of the aforementioned wire rod.

## [Detailed Description of the Invention]

## [0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] this invention relates to the picture fixing equipment used for the image formation equipment using electrophotography processes, such as a copying machine, facsimile, and a printer, and relates to the picture fixing equipment which fixes a toner to a sheet by passing a sheet between a heating roller and a pressurization roller especially.

## [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In the copying machine using the electrophotography method etc., it needs to be established and it is necessary to make into a permanent picture the non-established toner formed on sheets, such as paper. Then, the heating establishing method make the toner which carried out melting by heating weld on a sheet as the toner fixing method has spread most widely. Although the fixing equipment which enforces this method has various things, generally the thing of a heating mechanical control by roller is used. The equipment of this method was equipped with the heating roller heated by the infrared lamp etc. and the pressurization roller which is pressurized by this heating roller by the proper pressure, and contacts it, made the nip formed among both pass a sheet, and is established by heating and pressurizing the non-established toner which adheres on a sheet between them. The non-established toner is turned to the heating roller side in case a nip is made to pass a sheet.

[0003] By the way, with such fixing equipment of a heating mechanical control by roller, there is an inclination for the nose of cam of the sheet which passes the aforementioned nip to coil around a heating roller side. Since coiling round of this sheet led to the fault of curl and paper jam of a sheet, it makes the sheet immediately after dashing an ablation presser foot stitch tongue against a heating roller, and passing a nip conventionally, exfoliate compulsorily from a heating roller, and it was made to prevent the above-mentioned fault.

[0004] However, by this method, new problems -- the front face of a heating roller gets damaged by the ablation presser foot stitch tongue, or a toner collects on an ablation presser foot stitch tongue, and the toner soils a sheet -- were caused. Then, the technology which prepares a minute crevice between the nose of cam of an ablation presser foot stitch tongue (this official report interior material of a proposal) and a heating roller, and solves the above-mentioned problem is indicated by JP,3-54587,A.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Even if it prepares a minute crevice between an exfoliation presser foot stitch tongue and a heating roller like a publication in the above-mentioned official report, it is necessary to maintain the minute crevice between heating rollers for there being a possibility that an exfoliation presser foot stitch tongue may deform in response to the influence of the heat of a heating roller, and avoiding it beyond a fixed distance. Then, it becomes difficult to make an exfoliation presser foot stitch tongue approach a heating roller, consequently exfoliation of the sheet from a heating roller is overdue, and it is assumed that the function which suppresses curl and

generating of a jam is no longer obtained fully.

[0006] this invention is made in view of the above-mentioned situation, and the exfoliation member aims at offering the picture fixing equipment which is not influenced of the heat of a heating roller, but exfoliates a sheet exactly, and can suppress curl and generating of a jam.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] this invention is made in order to attain the above-mentioned purpose. as the means A heating roller and the pressurization roller which contacts this heating roller by the proper pressure, and forms a nip between heating rollers, The sheet conveyance way which passes the sheet with which the non-established toner adhered to the aforementioned nip, It has with the sheet exfoliation member allotted to the downstream of the aforementioned nip in this sheet conveyance way by approaching the aforementioned heating roller. the aforementioned exfoliation member It is characterized by the bird clapper from the supporter material which supports the both ends of the wire rod which has the flexibility which sets the aforementioned heating roller and a minute crevice and is prolonged in parallel, and this wire rod, and gives a proper tension to a wire rod.

[0008] According to this invention, since the wire rod of supporter material which exfoliates a sheet from a heating roller is slightly estranged from a heating roller and the always proper tension is given to it, while not damaging a heating roller, a wire rod does not deform under the influence of the heat of a heating roller, but an always exact exfoliation function is maintained.

[0009]

[Embodiments of the Invention]

A. -- composition [ of a 1 operation form A-1. 1 operation form ]: -- drawing 1 or drawing 4 drawing 1 shows the side of the picture fixing equipment of 1 operation form of this invention This picture fixing equipment is built into image formation equipments, such as a copying machine using the electrophotography method. In these views, signs 1 and 2 are a heating roller and a pressurization roller, respectively. These rollers 1 and 2 of each other are arranged in parallel, the front face of the lower pressurization roller 2 is made to contact by the proper pressure to the front face of the upper heating roller 1, and, thereby, the nip 3 is formed among both the rollers 1 and 2. Inside the heating roller 1, the source of heating which is not illustrated [ infrared lamp ] is contained, and the front face of the heating roller 1 is heated by predetermined temperature by this source of heating. A rotation drive is carried out in the direction of a clockwise rotation of the arrow in drawing by the

driving source which is not illustrated, and in connection with this, the heating roller 1 follows and rotates the pressurization roller 2 in the direction of a counterclockwise rotation.

[0010] The sheet S to which the non-established toner adhered from right-hand side (upstream) in drawing 1 is conveyed toward the aforementioned nip 3, and this sheet S passes a nip 3 and is conveyed on left-hand side (downstream). The conveyance guide 5 is formed in the upstream of a nip 3, and the conveyance guides 6a and 6b are formed in the upper and lower sides of a downstream, respectively, and the sheet conveyance way 7 is formed of these conveyances guides 5, 6a, and 6b. The imprint equipment which is not illustrated is arranged in the upstream of the conveyance guide 5, and a non-established toner is made to adhere to Sheet S with this imprint equipment. The sheet S is conveyed by the nip 3 after the non-established toner has turned to the heating roller side by the conveyance guide 5. A toner is fixed to the upper surface of Sheet S by pressurizing Sheet S from both the rollers 1 and 2, and heating it from the heating roller 1, while passing a nip 3 by rotation of the heating roller 1 and the pressurization roller 2 (it becomes a fixing toner). The sheet S with which the toner was established is sent to the discharge tray which is not illustrated.

[0011] the ablation which makes the sheet S which comes out from a nip 3 exfoliate from the heating roller 1 in the downstream of the nip 3 in the sheet conveyance way 7 -- the member 10 is arranged this ablation -- the member 10 consists of supporter material 12 which supports the both ends of the wire rod 11 which has the flexibility which sets the heating roller 1 and a minute crevice and is prolonged in parallel, and this wire rod 11, and gives a proper tension to a wire rod 11, as shown in drawing 2 or drawing 4

[0012] A wire rod 11 is a metal wire which has thermal resistance, such as a low carbon steel wire and piano wire, and the front face is covered with coating materials, such as a fluororesin. The supporter material 12 is what was able to do the metal flat spring of one sheet by being bent and processed, as shown in drawing 2 and drawing 3, the elastic section 14 is prolonged from the end face section 13, and the fixed part 15 which faces the heating roller 1 is formed at the nose of cam of this elastic section 14. The fixed part 15 is crooked a little by making the cross direction into a fold by the shape of a rectangle. The axis of the heating roller 1 and the length direction of a fixed part 15 cross at right angles, it is the posture in which the convex side was turned to the heating roller 1, and the screw stop of these supporter material 12 is carried out to the frame on which the end face section 13 contains and supports the picture fixing equipment concerned and which is not illustrated, and it is being fixed to it. The

apical surface (front face) of the fixed part 15 of the supporter material 12 is elastically in contact with the front face of the heating roller 1 in the state of this fixation. The sheet S which passed the aforementioned nip 3 has between both the supporter material 12 conveyed.

[0013] The both ends have fixed the wire rod 11 by welding etc. at the rear face of the point of the fixed part 15 of the supporter material 12. And this wire rod 11 is in the state where the tension was always given by the operation of the elastic section 14 of the supporter material 12 like \*\*\*\*. That is, the elastic section 14 of both the supporter material 12 has spread outside a little, and the tension is given to the wire rod 11 with the elasticity which is going to return inside. As a wire rod 11 is shown in drawing 4, when the fixed part 15 of the supporter material 12 is in between, only the part of the thickness of this fixed part 15 is estranged from the heating roller 1, and the thickness of the crevice d 15, i.e., a fixed part, is set as 0.6mm or less.

[0014] Moreover, the wire rod 11 is arranged in the range of 90 degrees or less (it is theta at drawing 1) by the down-stream sense of the sheet conveyance way 7 focusing on the axial center of the heating roller 1 from nip 3 center line L which connects the axial center of the heating roller 1 and the pressurization roller 2, when it sees from the side which it is on the extension wire of a wire rod 11, as shown in drawing 1. Arrangement angle theta 1 of the wire rod 11 in drawing 1 You may be 59 degrees.

[0015] while heating the peripheral face of the fixing heating roller 11 of the toner to the operation (1) sheet S of an A-2. 1 operation gestalt to predetermined temperature by the source of heating -- the heating roller 11 -- a rotation drive -- carrying out -- both the rollers 1 and 2 -- it is made to rotate together By the aforementioned imprint equipment, the field where the toner adheres is in the state suitable for the heating roller 1 side, and the sheet S which adhered to the non-established toner is sent into a nip 3 from the conveyance guide 5. In case Sheet S passes a nip 3, it is pressurized with the heating roller 11 and the pressurization roller 2, and is heated with the heating roller 11. Thereby, a toner is fixed to Sheet S.

[0016] (2) the case where the nose of cam of the sheet S which passed the ablation nip 3 from the heating roller 1 of the sheet S which passed the nip 3 tends to coil around the heating roller 1 -- the nose of cam -- immediately after passage of a nip 3 -- ablation, with the wire rod 11 of a member 10, it is led below (sheet conveyance way 7 side), and exfoliate from the heating roller 1 Then, Sheet S is conveyed by the downstream along the sheet conveyance way 7, while the upper surface \*\*\*\*s to a wire rod 11, and it reaches the

aforementioned eccentric tray.

[0017] ablation of the effect above-mentioned picture fixing equipment of an A-3. 1 operation gestalt -- according to the member 10, the following effects are done so

(1) The exfoliating wire rod 11 of the supporter material 12 estranges Sheet S slightly from the heating roller 1 from the heating roller 1, and the always proper tension is given. For this reason, while not damaging the heating roller 1, a wire rod 11 does not deform under the influence of the heat of the heating roller 1, but an always exact ablation function is maintained. Consequently, curl of Sheet S and generating of a jam are suppressed.

[0018] (2) Since the crevice between a wire rod 11 and the heating roller 1 is set as 0.6mm or less, ablation of Sheet S is made nearly completely, without being influenced by conditions, such as a water content and quality of paper. the following table 1 -- ablation -- the result which tested the member 10, the crevice between the heating rollers 1, and the relation of an ablation function is shown although according to this table 1 possibility of the thinner one being unable to exfoliate easily, and being hard to exfoliate, so that a water content is high, namely, coiling around the heating roller 1 is high rather than the thickness of Sheet S is large -- ablation -- if the crevice between a member 10 and the heating roller 1 is secured to 0.6mm or less, it will exfoliate, without being influenced by conditions Therefore, in this operation gestalt, ablation of Sheet S is made nearly completely like \*\*\*\* by setting the crevice between a wire rod 11 and the heating roller 1 as 0.6mm or less.

[0019]

[Table 1]

隙 間	標 準 紙			薄 紙		
	新品	含水率大		新品	含水率大	
	ベタ黒	ベタ黒	テスト パターン	ベタ黒	ベタ黒	テスト パターン
1.4mm	OK	NG	—	OK	NG	—
1mm	OK	Dog 発生	OK	OK	NG	Dog 発生
0.8mm	OK	OK	OK	OK	Dog 発生	OK
0.6mm	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

Dog : 端部の耳折れ

[0020] (3) ablation -- since the arrangement position of the wire rod 11 of a member 10 is set as the down-stream sense of the sheet conveyance way 7 by the range of 90 degrees or less focusing on the axial center of the nip center line

L to the heating roller 1 which connects the axial center of the heating roller 1 and the pressurization roller 2 as shown in drawing 1 , a wire rod 11 approaches a nip 3 and generating of curl is suppressed

[0021] (4) ablation -- since the fixed part 15 of a member 10 is in contact with the heating roller 1, a wire rod 11 is positioned by the state where the crevice between the heating rollers 1 is fixed For this reason, over the width-of-face whole region of Sheet S, an ablation function is stabilized, and is obtained, and fault, like some sheets S carry out an ear crease does not occur.

[0022] C. The example this invention of change based on this invention is not limited to the 1 above-mentioned operation gestalt, and various change is possible for it and it enumerates the examples below.

(1) As long as a wire rod 11 is the quality of the material which is not influenced of the heat of the heating roller 1, it may use anything.

(2) The supporter material 12 is used as the rigid body, and a tension is given to a wire rod 11 as movement in the length direction of a wire rod 11 being free.

(3) Don't make the supporter material 12 contact the heating roller 1, but it is the method of attachment of the supporter material 12 to a frame, and enable it to adjust the crevice between a wire rod 11 and the heating roller 1.

[0023]

[Effect of the Invention] As explained above, according to the picture fixing equipment of this invention according to claim 1, the exfoliating wire rod of supporter material a sheet from a heating roller Since it estranges slightly from a heating roller and the always proper tension is given, while not damaging a heating roller, a wire rod does not deform under the influence of the heat of a heating roller, an always exact ablation function is maintained, consequently curl of a sheet and generating of a jam are suppressed.

[0024] According to the picture fixing equipment of this invention according to claim 2, since the crevice between a wire rod and a heating roller is set as 0.6mm or less, exfoliation of a sheet is made nearly completely, without being influenced by conditions, such as a water content and quality of paper.

[0025] according to the picture fixing equipment of this invention according to claim 3 -- exfoliation -- since the wire rod of a member is arranged in the range of 90 degrees or less at the down-stream sense of a sheet conveyance way focusing on the axial center of a nip center line to a heating roller which connects the axial center of a heating roller and a pressurization roller, a wire rod approaches a nip and generating of curl is suppressed

[0026] Since according to the picture fixing equipment of this invention according to claim 4 it is in contact with the heating roller while supporter



material is fixed to the heating roller side of a wire rod, the crevice between heating rollers is positioned by the fixed state, for this reason, an exfoliation function is stabilized by the wire rod over the width-of-face whole region of a sheet, and it is obtained.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the side elevation of the picture fixing equipment of 1 operation gestalt of this invention.

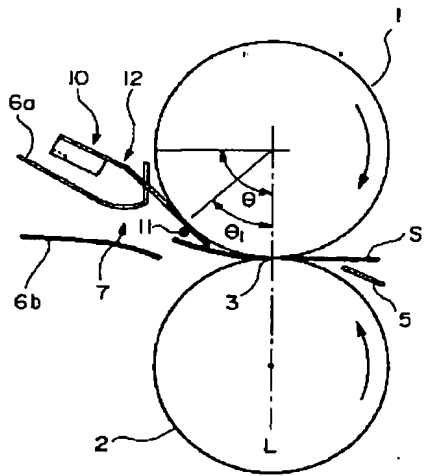
[Drawing 2] It is this perspective diagram.

[Drawing 3] It is this front view.

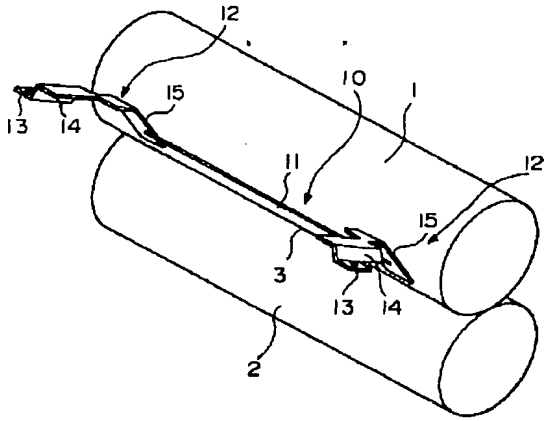
[Drawing 4] ablation -- it is the expansion side elevation of a member

[Description of Notations]

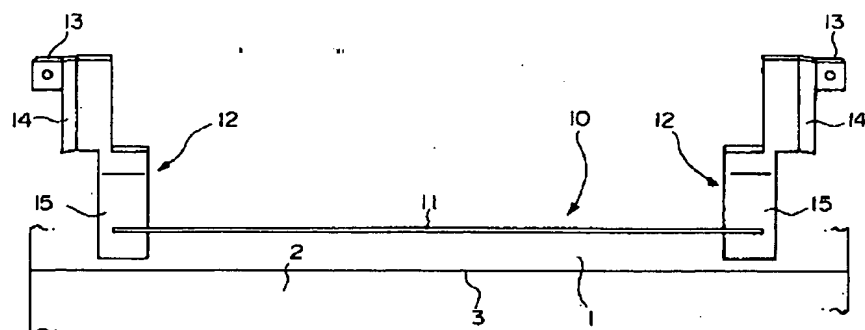
1 [ -- A nip, 7 / -- A sheet conveyance way, 10 / -- An ablation member, 11 / -- A wire rod, 12 / -- Supporter material, L / -- A nip center line, S / -- Sheet. ] -- A heating roller, 2 -- A pressurization roller, 3



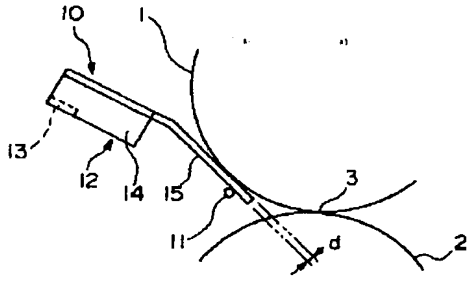
[Translation done.]

Drawing selection drawing 2

[Translation done.]

Drawing selection drawing 3

[Translation done.]

Drawing selection drawing 4

[Translation done.]

(19) 日本国特許庁 (J P) (12) 公開特許公報 (A) (11) 特許出願公開番号  
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(54) 【発明の名称】 画像定着装置

(57) 【要約】  
【課題】 加熱ローラからシートを剥離させる剥離部材を、加熱ローラの熱の影響を受けることなく近接させる。  
【解決手段】 金属製の縁材11をシートSを剥離する部材とし、この縁材11を加熱ローラ1に近接させ、その両端を支持部材12で支持するとともに縁材11にテンションを与え、加熱ローラ1の熱の影響を受けることなく加熱ローラ1との隙間が一定に保持できるようにした。

(2) 1

【特許請求の範囲】  
【請求項1】 加熱ローラと、  
該加熱ローラに適宜な圧力で当接し加熱ローラとの間に  
ニップを形成する加圧ローラと、  
前記ニップに未定着トナーが付着したシートを通過させ  
るシート搬送路と、  
該シート搬送路における前記ニップの下流側に前記加熱  
ローラに近接して配されたシート剥離部材と備え、  
前記剥離部材は、前記加熱ローラと微小隙間において平  
行に延びる可撓性を有する縁材と、  
該縁材の両端部を支持し、かつ縁材に適宜なテンション  
を与える支持部材とからなることを特徴とする画像定着  
装置。  
【請求項2】 前記縁材と前記加熱ローラとの間の隙間  
が0.6mm以下に設定されていることを特徴とする請求  
項1に記載の画像定着装置。  
【請求項3】 前記縁材の配設位置が、該縁材の延長線  
上である箇所から見た場合に、前記加熱ローラと前記加  
圧ローラの軸心を結ぶニップ中心線から、加熱ローラの  
軸心を中心として前記シート搬送路の下流向きに90°  
以下の位置であることを特徴とする請求項1、2のい  
ずれかに記載の画像定着装置。  
【請求項4】 前記支持部材は前記縁材の加熱ローラ側  
に固定されるときにも、該加熱ローラに当接しているこ  
とを特徴とする請求項1、2、3のいずれかに記載の画  
像定着装置。  
【発明の詳細な説明】  
【0001】  
【発明の属する技術分野】 本発明は、複写機、フアクシ  
ミリ、プリンタ等の電子写真プロセスを利用した画像形  
成装置に使用される画像定着装置に際し、特に、加熱ロ  
ーラと加圧ローラとの間にシートを通過させることによ  
りトナーをシートに定着させる画像定着装置に関する。  
【0002】  
【従来の技術】 電子写真方式を利用した複写機等におい  
ては、紙等のシートの上に形成された未定着トナーを定  
着して永久画像にする必要がある。そこで、トナー定着  
方法としては、加熱によって溶融させたトナーをシート  
上に融着させる画像定着法が最も広く普及してい  
る。この方法を実施する定着装置は種々のものがある  
が、一般には加熱ローラ方式のものが利用されている。  
この方式の装置は、加熱ローラに適宜な圧力で加圧され  
加熱ローラと、この加熱ローラに適宜な圧力で加圧され  
る未定着トナーを加熱および加圧することによって定着  
している。シートをニップに通過させる際には、未定着  
トナーを加熱ローラ側に向けている。  
【0003】 ところで、このような加熱ローラ方式の定  
着装置では、前記ニップを通過するシートの先端が加熱

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ローラ側に巻き付いてしまう傾向がある。このシートの  
巻き付きは、シートのカールや紙詰まりといった不具合  
につながるもので、従来より、加熱ローラに剥離爪を突き  
当ててニップを通過した直後のシートを加熱ローラから  
強制的に剥離させ、上記不具合を未然に防ぐようにして  
いた。

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【0004】 ところが、この方式では加熱ローラの表面  
が剥離爪で傷ついてしまったり、剥離爪にトナーが溜ま  
りそのトナーがシートを汚すなど新たな問題を招いてい  
た。そこで、特開平3-54587号公報には、剥離爪  
(同公報では案内部材)の先端と加熱ローラとの間に微  
小隙間を設けて上記問題を解消する技術が記載されてい  
る。

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【0005】  
【発明が解決しようとする課題】 上記公報に記載のよう  
に剥離爪と加熱ローラとの間に微小隙間を設けても、剥  
離爪が加熱ローラの熱の影響を受けて変形するおそれ  
あり、それを避けるには加熱ローラとの微小隙間を一定  
の距離以上に保つ必要がある。すると、剥離爪を加熱ロ  
ーラに近接させることが困難となり、その結果、加熱ロ  
ーラからのシートの剥離が遅れ、カールやジャムの発生  
を抑制する機能が十分に得られなくなることが想定され  
る。

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【0006】 本発明は上記事情に鑑みてなされたもので  
あり、剥離部材が加熱ローラの熱の影響を受けず的確に  
シートを剥離してカールやジャムの発生を抑えることの  
できる画像定着装置を提供することを目的としている。  
【0007】

6

【課題を解決するための手段】 本発明は上記目的を達成  
するためになされたものであり、その手段としては、加  
熱ローラと、該加熱ローラに適宜な圧力で当接し加熱ロ  
ーラとの間にニップを形成する加圧ローラと、前記ニ  
ップに未定着トナーが付着したシートを通過させるシ  
ート搬送路と、該シート搬送路における前記ニップの下流  
側に前記加熱ローラに近接して配されたシート剥離部材と  
備え、前記剥離部材は、前記加熱ローラと微小隙間をお  
いて平行に延びる可撓性を有する縁材と、該縁材の両端  
部を支持し、かつ縁材に適宜なテンションを与える支持  
部材とからなることを特徴としている。

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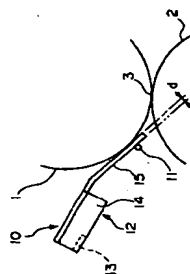
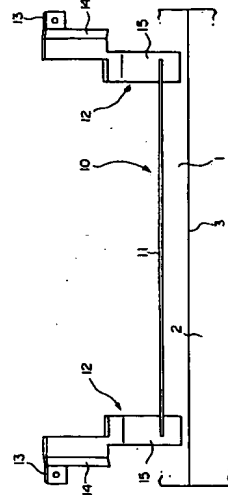
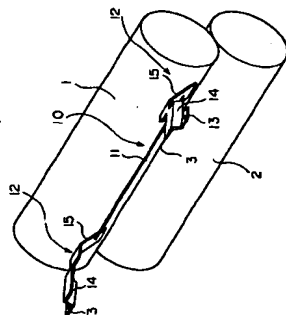
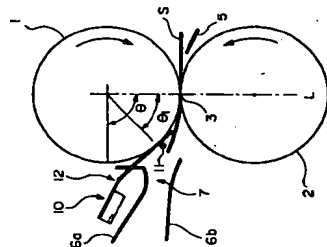
【0008】 本発明によれば、加熱ローラからシートを  
剥離する支持部材の縁材は、加熱ローラから僅かに離間  
し、かつ常に適宜なテンションを与えられているので、  
加熱ローラを傷つけることがないとともに、加熱ローラ  
の熱の影響により縁材が変形せず常に的確な剥離機能が  
維持される。

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【0009】  
【発明の実施の形態】  
A. 一実施形態  
A-1. 一実施形態の構成：図1ないし図4  
図1は、本発明の一実施形態の画像定着装置の側面を示

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【公報種別】特許法第17条の2の規定による補正の掲載

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【F1】

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【手続補正書】

【提出日】平成12年11月10日(2000.11.10)

【手続補正1】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】特許請求の範囲

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 加熱ローラと、

該加熱ローラに適宜な圧力で当接し加熱ローラとの間に

ニップを形成する加圧ローラと、

前記ニップに未定着トナーが付着したシートを通過させ

るシート搬送路と、

該シート搬送路における前記ニップの下流側に前記加熱

ローラに近接して配され、前記加熱ローラから前記シ

ートを剥離させるシート剥離部材と備え、

前記シート剥離部材は、前記加熱ローラと微小隙間をお

いて平行に延びる縁材を備えたことを特徴とする画像定

着装置。

【請求項2】 前記シート剥離部材は、前記縁材の両端

部を支持し、かつ縁材に適宜なテンションを与える支持

部材を備えたことを特徴とする請求項1に記載の画像定

着装置。

【請求項3】 前記縁材と前記加熱ローラとの間の隙間

が0.6mm以下に設定されていることを特徴とする請求

項1または請求項2に記載の画像定着装置。

【請求項4】 前記縁材の配設位置が、該縁材の延長線

上である側方から見た場合に、前記加熱ローラと前記加

圧ローラの軸心を通るニップ中心線から、加熱ローラの

軸心を中心として前記シート搬送路の下流向きに90°

以下の位置であることを特徴とする請求項1ないし請求

項3のいずれかに記載の画像定着装置。

【請求項5】 前記支持部材は前記縁材の加熱ローラ側

に固定されるとともに、該加熱ローラに当接しているこ

【補正内容】

【0023】

【発明の効果】 以上説明したように本発明の請求項1ま

たは請求項2に記載の画像定着装置によれば、加熱ロー

ラからシートを剥離する支持部材の縁材は、加熱ローラ

から僅かに離間し、かつ常に適宜なテンションを与えら

れているので、加熱ローラを傷つけることがないとも

に、加熱ローラの熱の影響により縁材が変形せず常に均

整な剥離機能が維持され、その結果、シートのカールや

ジャムの発生が抑えられる。

【手続補正5】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】0024

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【0024】 本発明の請求項3に記載の画像定着装置に

よれば、縁材と加熱ローラの隙間が0.6mm以下に設定

されているので、各水準や紙質等の条件に左右されずシ

ートの剥離がほぼ完全になされる。

【手続補正6】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】0025

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【0025】 本発明の請求項4に記載の画像定着装置に

よれば、シート剥離部材の縁材が、加熱ローラと加圧ロ

ーラの軸心を通るニップ中心線から、加熱ローラと加圧

を中心としてシート搬送路の下流向きに90°以下の範

囲に配置されているので、縁材はニップに近接し、カー

ルの発生が抑えられる。

【手続補正7】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】0026

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【0026】 本発明の請求項5に記載の画像定着装置に

よれば、支持部材が縁材の加熱ローラ側に固定されると

ともに加熱ローラに当接しているので、縁材は加熱ロー

ラとの間の隙間が一定の状態に位置決めされ、このた

め、剥離機能がシートの幅全域にわたって安定して得ら

れる。